

goals and actions identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) the efforts of Federal agencies should reflect a recognition of the extreme urgency of the problem and recognize that opportunities for increased conservation are rapidly dwindling, by annually providing to the appropriate Committees of Congress progress reports and action plans with regard to the goals and activities identified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, the evidence is clear. We stand at the brink of major losses among the living species on our planet. By the end of this century, as many as two out of every three plant and animal species could be in danger of extinction. This disturbing trend has many causes, but several are clear and manmade—they are our responsibility and they are within our control.

Our industrial emissions are changing our world's climate and, in so doing, drastically altering habitats—habitats already threatened by deforestation and other landuse changes. Unsustainable fishing and the spread of invasive species due to enhanced global commerce pose similar manmade challenges.

That is why I am introducing, along with Senators SNOWE, BOXER, LUGAR, KERRY, SPECTER, MENENDEZ, BROWNBACK, BAYH, STABENOW, and FEINGOLD, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should take a leadership role in protecting international biodiversity. With one out of every ten species facing extinction, with habitats declining, and with developing countries searching to build a better economic future while protecting their natural environments, now is the time for renewed efforts to protect our living world.

This morning, my colleagues and I hosted a briefing by Dr. Edward O. Wilson, renowned University Research Professor Emeritus at Harvard and author of two Pulitzer Prize-winning books, and Dr. Eric Chivian, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize and is Founder and Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. These two eminent scientists made the case that biodiversity is not just a moral, ecological, and economic issue, but also one of major importance to human health.

We often find, Mr. President, that the areas most in danger are in developing nations, which have the least ability to protect them. Developing nations face very real economic and human challenges. Many are struggling to provide enough food for their people, especially given the recent rise in food prices. They now face the choice between feeding their people and preserving their environment. We know how that will turn out. We must give them another choice.

To do that, the United States and other wealthy nations must help. The 10 colleagues with whom I worked on this resolution understand that protecting our global biodiversity is actu-

ally in our own national interest. Sustainable agricultural practices promise sustainable economies in the developing world. A stable climate will reduce the threat of water shortages, shifting growing seasons, population movements, and resource wars. Protecting habitats not only protects the rich diversity of life on earth—protecting habitats will preserve some of the most basic building blocks of our economies and societies.

Not least, as Dr. Wilson and Dr. Chivian so persuasively argue, the preservation of biodiversity is an investment in human health. More than a quarter of the world's medicinal drugs possess active ingredients from wild species, and more than half of the most prescribed medicines in the United States are based on natural compounds. If we hope to advance medicine, to ease pain and suffering and to extend lifespans, the bounty of nature offers an indispensable guide and resource.

Finally, we have a moral obligation to protect biodiversity. Ensuring that we can feed and clothe and shelter millions more people while preserving the elaborate tapestry of creation will allow our children and grandchildren to inherit the rich planet that we were bequeathed. Species extinctions are nothing new. But species extinctions that are avoidable, that are within our power to prevent, extinctions due to our greed, or our ignorance, impose on us a special responsibility. Those are mistakes that can never be undone. We must resolve to do all we can to replace greed with a better calculation of our long-term interests. We must resolve to replace ignorance with knowledge and with wisdom.

That is why my colleagues and I are offering the resolution, to express the will of the Senate to redouble United States efforts internationally to protect our world in all its complexity, and diversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS FOLLOWING THE TORNADO THAT HIT THE LITTLE SIOUX SCOUT RANCH IN LITTLE SIOUX, IOWA, ON JUNE 11, 2008.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 599

Whereas, on the evening of June 11, 2008, a tornado struck the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Little Sioux, Iowa;

Whereas 4 lives were tragically lost, and many other people were injured;

Whereas Boy Scouts and Boy Scout leaders at the camp showed great heroism and courage in providing aid and assistance to their fellow Scouts;

Whereas the first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement, and medical personnel worked valiantly to help provide care and comfort to those who were injured;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will continue to feel the loss and remember the courage of the Boy Scouts who were at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch the evening of June 11, 2008;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will continue to develop young men who show the character, strength, and bravery that was demonstrated by the Boy Scouts at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch on the evening of June 11, 2008; and

Whereas the people of Nebraska and Iowa have embraced those affected and will continue to offer support to the families of those who were lost and injured; Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the terrible events of June 11, 2008, at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Little Sioux, Iowa: Sam Thomsen, Josh Fennen, and Ben Petrzilka of Omaha, Nebraska, and Aaron Ellerts of Eagle Grove, Iowa;

(2) shares its thoughts and prayers for a full recovery for all those who were injured;

(3) commends the Boy Scouts of America for the support the organization has provided to the families and friends of those who were lost and injured;

(4) extends its thanks to the first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement, and medical personnel who took quick action to provide aid and comfort to the victims; and

(5) stands with the people of Nebraska and Iowa as they begin the healing process following this terrible event.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—COMMEMORATING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER IN PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, WHILE WORKING IN THE NAME OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY TO REGISTER VOTERS AND SECURE CIVIL RIGHTS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1964, WHICH HAS BECOME KNOWN AS “FREEDOM SUMMER”

Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SCHUMER)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas 44 years ago, on June 21, 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which has become known as “Freedom Summer”;

Whereas Andrew Goodman was a 20-year-old White anthropology major at New York's Queens College, who volunteered for the “Freedom Summer” project;

Whereas James Chaney, from Meridian, Mississippi, was a 21-year-old African-American civil rights activist who joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963 to work on voter education and registration;

Whereas Michael “Mickey” Schwerner, from Brooklyn, New York, was a 24-year-old White CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement;

Whereas in 1964, Mississippi had a Black voting-age population of 450,000, but only 16,000 Blacks were registered to vote;